

Serial No. 09/940,410

IN THE CLAIMS

Claims 1 and 2 (cancelled).

Claim 3 (currently amended) The method as claimed in claim ~~[[1]]~~ 8, further comprising forcibly blowing air to the material web/coating in step (c) along a direction of air removal.

Claim 4 (currently amended) The method as claimed in claim ~~[[1]]~~ 8, further comprising a step of cooling the material web/coating after step (c).

Claim 5 (cancelled).

Claim 6 (currently amended) The method as claimed in claim ~~[[21]]~~ 8, wherein the material web is a web of spandex mesh.

Claim 7 (currently amended) The method as claimed in claim ~~[[21]]~~ 8, wherein the material web is a web of foam.

Claim 8 (currently amended) ~~[[The]]~~ A method as claimed in claim 1 for bonding a coating to a material web, comprising the steps of:

(a) bonding the coating and the material web together by glue;

(b) heating the material web having the coating bonded thereto; and

(c) removing air between the coating and the material web to thereby provide thorough bonding between the coating and the material web, wherein the step of removing air comprises providing air removing means, wherein the air removing means comprises at least one aspiration cylinder through which the heated material web/coating passes, said at least one aspiration cylinder comprises a longitudinal chamber and a plurality of vents in an outer periphery thereof and communicated with the longitudinal chamber, the longitudinal chamber having an outlet, the air removing means further comprising an aspiration means having an inlet communicated with the outlet of the longitudinal chamber.

Claim 9 (cancelled).

Claim 10 (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 8, further comprising blowing air to the material web/coating passing through said at least one aspiration cylinder.

Claim 11 (cancelled).

Claim 12 (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 8, further comprising reeling the material web/coating that has passed through said at least one aspiration cylinder.

Claim 13 (cancelled).

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Claim 14 (currently amended) The method as claimed in claim 12, further comprising providing a cooling roller between the reel and the air-removing means.

Claim 15 (currently amended) The method as claimed in claim 8, wherein the air-removing means is a vacuum pump.

Claim 16 (cancelled).

Claim 17 (currently amended) The method as claimed in claim ~~[[16]]~~ 10, further comprising reeling the material web/coating that has passed through the air-removing means.

Claim 18 (currently amended) The method as claimed in claim 17, further comprising providing a cooling roller between the reel and the air-removing means.

Claim 19 (currently amended) The method as claimed in claim ~~[[1]]~~ 8, wherein the coating is transparent.

Claim 20 (currently amended) The ~~apparatus~~ method as claimed in claim 6, wherein the coating is transparent.

Claim 21 (cancelled).